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★ **The Co-op That Works**

★ **Films Tell a Story**

August, 1965

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THE MACDONALD LASSIE

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macdonald FARM journal

Serving Quebec's most affluent group of English-speaking farmers and their wives for over a quarter of a century.

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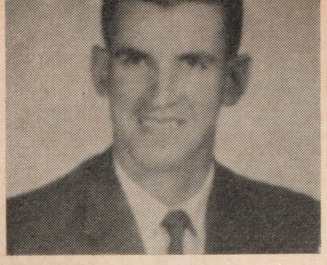

INSIDE

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

A change was needed

At the Lachute Spring Fair I had an opportunity to see the Federal Department of Agriculture's version of the new showring classes for the first time. I liked what I saw. These new classes caused a renewed interest in the livestock at that Fair.

For years, it was obvious that something was needed. The Fall Fairs just weren't what they used to be. They were the same year after year. The same exhibitors (only fewer each year), the same number of cattle and the same classes. Some fairs had died because of lack of interest and support.

Livestock has always been the number one attraction at the fair. In recent years, horses have been increasing in numbers at each show and now are stealing the spotlight. The number of herds of cattle exhibited at the local exhibitions was generally decreasing. Why?

The labour situation on farms had changed. There was no longer an extra person to fit and to take a herd of cattle to the fair.

A lot of labour was required, often twenty or more head of cattle were required to fill all the classes. This represented a lot of expense and work. The mere job of showing these cattle often was long and exhausting. As a result of these and other factors, many exhibitions just haven't been as well attended by exhibitors or spectators.

Hon. Harry Hays, Canada's Minister of Agriculture, introduced a new policy for agricultural shows. It certainly is different. It has been criticized by some and praised by others. At the Lachute Spring Fair the Federal Department of Agriculture's new classes were tried for the first time in Quebec. We talked to several persons and everyone seemed happy. The big change has been in the number of classes now only nine, and any exhibitor could show in every class with as few as seven animals. Double entries are allowed in only two classes by any one exhibitor. The exibitors brought fewer animals to the Fair, had fewer to care for and fewer to show. The spectators were happy too; there were fewer classes to watch being judged. At Lachute, they rotated classes and thus made the day more interesting.

I missed the big bulls at the Fair. There wasn't any class for these giants. However, they were often difficult to handle and are much safer at home in the bull-pen. As A.I. increases in popularity there will be fewer bulls around anyway, so I suppose no tears should be shed.

The Interbreed Competition for "the best udder class" will cause a lot of interest in the future. It's time our dairy breeds got together in the same ring, and at the same time. The judging of this class should be carefully handled. It can be complicated. A quick method must be found to place this class. It will be the climax at many cattle shows.

I hope we see identification cards placed over more animals in the future. I think the information on these cards is important. You can see the animal and also see a record of its usefulness.

The Herdsman Competition is also new. The Herdsman who does the best job, puts on the best display, has neatest exhibit, shows good sportsmanship and is courteous to the public will get this award. This is indeed an important step; some herds and herdsmen have not been well-groomed in the past — an incentive has now been added.

For the first time the (B.C.A), Breed Class Average, was used in the showring. All the bulls shown were from dams who had completed at least one record of 115 B.C.A. for milk. Also for females five years and over, a B.C.A. of 115 was required. Then in the best uddered class each animal must have completed 3 records with an average B.C.A. of 125 for milk. These production requirements are good. Show cows should make better than average records; this is the proof that showring cattle can also produce.

This new idea for showring classes and production standards is well worth watching. Fewer animals, larger prize money, and new classes should improve the livestock shows. I hope so. In any case, this is an important step in the right direction.

Galen Driver

"The co-op that works"

by Galen A. Driver, Extension Dept.

When the local custom combine operator was going out of business, these four farmers had to find some solution to their harvesting problems. They took an idea to their Bank Manager — and their troubles were over. Here's the story . . .

Farmers have always worked together. However four farmers in the Eastern Townships have gone one step farther than most farmers I know. They formed a small co-op or machinery pool. Lawrence Horner, Stuart Hawke, Fred Shufelt and Harris Shufelt are the charter members. When four neighbours share the same equipment this requires cooperation within the group. They always try to keep the accounts straight when they exchange work.

This idea began five years ago. The local custom combine operator was going out of business. It looked as if there would be no one to do the harvesting. These four farmers decided to do something. They needed a combine — a self-propelled unit costs a lot of money.

The cash down payment wasn't too large for each when they divided it four ways. The bank manager was interested in their plan; when he asked who would sign the note the answer was, "all four of us will sign". They borrowed the money and immediately set up a machinery account and named Harris Shufelt the youngest of the group as secretary-treasurer.

They bought the combine. There was plenty of custom work to be done along with their own. They charged $9 per hour for their combine; the operator was paid $2 per hour and the balance minus operating expenses went into the machinery bank account. If one of the owners operated the unit, he was paid for his work. If the owners were too busy they hired a competent operator and he used the combine to do custom work.

When the combine worked on the farms of the co-owners it cost them the same rate per hour as anyone else. In this way they all pay according to their use of the machine. This plan worked very well and so last year they agreed to purchase more equipment using the same plan.

Corn harvesting has always been hard work — (the days of pitching corn are over). Last fall they decided to purchase a forage harvester and a blower. The harvesting of corn is more involved than combining grain and it requires more machinery and manpower. These four men help each other when it's time to fill the silos. With four men and four tractors plus wagons and their new equipment, they can quite easily fill a silo per day.

They could and would rent out this silo-filling equipment but do not expect to do this often. There isn't as much demand for the harvester as there is for the combine. They are not worried about this — they seem well satisfied if the equipment fills their six silos. Oh, yes, — again they charge each other a fixed rate for each silo. This money goes into the same machinery account. Because they have the equipment, one member of the group has started to grow corn again.

Not one of these farmers could purchase the equipment on their own. Now, they can use the equipment when they want to. This sharing of equipment has really helped this group.

I had a pleasant visit at each of these farms. Each member was satisfied with this arrangement. I mentioned the new federal plan for machinery syndicates — a similar idea. "But why bother with that", said one member. "All we need to do is to walk into our local bank and we can get money to finance any equipment we want. It's as simple as that."

Will this idea grow? Will they add more pieces of equipment or more members to their group? These questions are answered when they have a meeting once or twice per year, or as often as it is necessary. Arrangements have been made so that any member can sell out his share to the other three. They could also add more members to their group if they wanted to.

Although they have invested money and worked together for five years, they never have written any of their plans or rules on paper. They trust each other; but they did mention that it might be better if they had a written agreement. However, I didn't detect any urgency for this move. They are all happy — it is a good working agreement. It is their way of beating high machinery investments. And to me this makes sense. How many others will use this same idea?

"Films tell a story people never forget"

by Iris Robbins,
Extension Dept., Macdonald College.

Films can be used to convey information, stimulate interest, develop and change attitudes, encourage action, teach skills. Here is expert advice on how to use films, and where to get them.

In these days of increasing competition for time, attention and energy, of tremendous expansion of the body of available knowledge, of immense broadening of horizons, the right film is a most valuable asset for use in programming of almost any type. The accent here is on "right" — careful selection and proper use for the specific purpose will provide an experience of interest and value.

One of the sources of films and film information in the Province of Quebec is the Extension Film Library at Macdonald College — one of the services of the Extension Department of the College which combines to carry the University beyond the campus. The Extension Film Library, maintained as an educational service, is a joint project of McGill University and the National Film Board. It grew originally out of the wartime film circuits maintained by the N.F.B. and adult educators. When this circulation of film blocks throughout the province was discontinued in 1948, the film library was established to serve the whole of Quebec. It is still doing this, lending films to organizations and individuals anywhere in the province for non-commercial purposes at a nominal rate for specific showing dates. Shipping charges both ways are paid by the borrower. In some cases films are shipped right across Canada.

In the library at present are about 600 non-theatrical sound films (16mm.) on a wide variety of topics — vivid, thoughtful, entertaining. Whether one wishes to see in time-lapse and colour microphotography the emergence of a dragonfly or the birth of a caterpillar — to have re-created the great moments of Canada's history — to explore this vast country from coast to coast — to meet artists and craftsmen and learn about their work — to be informed on world affairs, the sciences, the realm of work or health or religion — or simply to be enchanted or amused — the Library can supply films for these purposes and any others. Certain films are prepared especially for discussion, and discussion guides can be provided for interested groups.

The shelves of the film library hold a wealth of entertainment, enlightenment and emotional impact, available to borrowers where and when it suits their convenience. More and more people are discovering this, as the sharply rising circulation of the film library attests.

To make available to its borrowers a further film stock of more than 7000 titles in 30 special collections, the Extension Film Library is a member of the Canadian Film Institute in Ottawa — Canada's National Film Library. C.F.I. is an independent, voluntary, non-profit organization that functions as a co-ordinator and national distributor of non-theatrical films in Canada. In addition, the Canadian Film Institute maintains a comprehensive library and information service concerning films for the use of its members. Through the Institute's co-operation, a request to the film library at Macdonald can open the doors to film use or film information to satisfy every need.

Films are an effective medium of communication, not only because their combination of picture and sound presents information with attention-getting impact but because they can be made to serve many different needs. Depending on the particular purpose of your program, films can be used to convey information about a subject, to stimulate interest in a new idea, to develop or change attitudes, to encourage action, to teach a skill, or to stimulate discussion. Most films are not, however, intended to do a job by themselves; their role is to help you to do a job. For best results, the five steps outlined below should be followed.

1. SELECTION: The film most closely related to the purpose of the program should be selected. Ask yourself: "What is the job to be done, and what do I want the film to do?" Film descriptions will help in making a choice.

2. PREVIEW: Having selected the film, the group leader or chairman should preview it to make sure it will help do the required job, and also to prepare himself to use it with the group. If more than one film is to be shown, they should all have some relationship to the theme of the program.

3. INTRODUCTION: The introduction should relate the subject of the film to the interests of the group or to the purpose of the program. Keep it brief, but prepare the audience to watch for the most significant parts of the film.

4. SHOWING : To make the most of the film the audience must not be distracted. Good showmanship requires proper seating, smooth projection of the films, clear focus and sound, and a room well-darkened but comfortably ventilated. All of this is best arranged before the meeting begins.

5. FOLLOW-UP : This can be the most important part of the program, since this is where the job is actually done and the results appear. The follow-up can take many forms. It can be a group or panel discussion, a question-and-answer period, a demonstration, a practice session, or (if time is limited) a comprehensive summary by the leader.

Selection of a film from the library - Iris Robbins takes the first step in sending a booking on its way.

Information to accompany a film shipment is prepared by Pauline Andrews - the second step.

The third step - films are packed in sturdy cases for shipment by railway express. All photos by K. G. Robbins.

Are you a weight watcher?

by Dr. Florence Farmer

For many of us, a stage has arrived when some weight must be lost, not just for appearance sake, but for good health as well. Here's how . . .

The story is told of the woman who attended a pre-natal clinic and was advised by her doctor to watch her weight. When she returned the doctor seemed displeased with the added pounds. "I thought I told you to watch your weight?" "You did: I get weighed every week and I see it's going steadily up!" Are you this kind of weight watcher?

Increased weight is due to a greater intake of calories than the body uses up each day. Balancing the calorie intake is like balancing your bank account. You add up the deposits, subtract it from the previous balance. If you always put in the bank each month, more than you take out, you will eventually save enough to invest. If you consistently spend more than you deposit, you will always be in debt. Nature has provided a means for animals to store energy, as fat, when food is plentiful, so that they can use it later, when little food is available. Man, knowing this, eats well at meal times and uses the energy thus stored for muscular activity during the rest of the day. Some surplus calories in the diet serve a useful purpose. Fat forms around the kidneys and helps to hold them in place. Fat acts as protection on the soles of the feet, around the reproductive organs, etc. However, "more fat" is not necessarily better than "some fat". Overweight carries with it a great risk of accidents, illness and shortened life span. Our striving for a comfortable life in Canada has resulted in televisions, cars and labour-saving devices of all kinds. These things are not bad in themselves but they have brought with them a new problem for us to tackle. We do not work as hard, physically, as our ancestors used to do but we continue to eat as much as ever, because food is plentiful and tastes delicious.

For many of us a stage has arrived when some weight must be lost not just for appearance sake but because our excess weight is a health hazard. How can we do this, when it has always been so difficult for us to control our appetites?

Are you familiar with Canada's Food Guide*? It has been drawn up by the Nutrition Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, in Ottawa. Is the guide used in your home in planning meals for the family? The guide is flexible so that everyone can use it. It does not specify the amount of food — only the kind. It speaks of one serving, which, as you know is larger for an adult than for a child and much larger for a teen-age boy than for an infant. Nevertheless, if the guide is used as the pattern in planning meals each individual can regulate his own intake. For someone who is overweight this is difficult. Several suggestions may help you:

1. Do not have any beverage with your meals. Does this advice seem strange to you? Try it. Omitting fluids at meal times seems to strengthen the will power. Naturally you will be thirsty between meals. If you are, eat an apple. If you have exercised and are very thirsty, eat several apples.
2. Do not add sugar to any food. Avoid all chocolates, candy, cake, canned fruit (if sweetened), icing, cookies, sweet sauces, puddings and soft drinks. This is where you exercise your will power, but it will be easier for you if you refrain from drinking with your meals.
3. Do not eat anything at all between meals except apples. Eat as many as you like — six or eight when you start your diet if you feel you want something to chew on.
4. Take some extra exercise every day. Walk, ride a bicycle, weed the garden, use the XBX* exercises, swim or skate. Thus spend half an hour a day getting physically tired.
5. Go to bed early. People who are over-weight often eat too much at night. Have your last apple just before you retire. If you wake early, get up. You will find you have greater will power to resist eating sweets in the morning than at night.

SUGGESTED MENU

BREAKFAST:

Orange Juice (or other good source of vitamin C). Whole grain cereal (rolled oats or shredded wheat) Skim milk.

Or: Juice, egg and 1 piece brown toast (no butter)

LUNCH:

Soup (diluted with water or skim milk) Crackers or bread with cheese (no butter) Fresh fruit (with no sugar)

DINNER

Meat, fish or poultry (cooked in any manner) Potatoes with butter. Green or yellow vegetable (sometimes raw) Another vegetable (use a variety) with butter. Fresh fruit.

BETWEEN MEALS:

As many apples as you wish.

Drink water, clear tea or coffee, if you are thirsty.

* X Bx exercises for women are available from Queen's Printer's Book Shop, 1182 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR DIET!

90 pounds of calf for $8.00

The best time for calving the beef herd is a controversial subject. Most beef men have their own ideas, but facts and figures are few. Dr. Jim Nicholson, experimental farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia, has worked it out in dollars and cents. Peter Hamilton of Macdonald College questioned Dr. Nicholson on his findings.

Peter Hamilton : What did you find when you compared late and early calving in the beef herd, Dr. Nicholson ?

Dr. Nicholson : We compared mid-winter calving with late spring calving and we concluded on our three years work on this experiment that we could get 90 pounds more calf at weaning time in the fall at a cost of about $8.00 a cow by calving in mid-winter.

Peter Hamilton : Tell us how you set this up, and roughly the difference in dates of calving?

Dr. Nicholson : We started out with first calf heifers in the initial stages of the experiment, and we divided them into two groups. One half was bred so that they would calve in January and February, and the other half was bred to calve from mid-April through mid-June. We used the same bull to breed both groups of cows so that there wouldn't be an effect due to sire. Then, we fed the cows through the winter in a loose housing barn. We fed them from the same lots of feed and recorded the amount of feed that they consumed. Then at springtime we turned both groups together out to pasture.

Peter Hamilton : And you continued this for three calf crops?

Dr. Nicholson : Yes, that is right. And the extra feed that was eaten by the early calving group would cost just under $8.00 according to current feed prices in Eastern Canada.

Peter Hamilton : And this was offset in the long run ?

Dr. Nicholson : Both groups of calves were weaned at the same time in mid-October and the calves from the early calving cows averaged about 90 pounds more at that time, and we think that is pretty good return for $8.00 worth of feed.

Peter Hamilton : I think some beef men would be a little fearful of calving that early, perhaps chiefly because they would wonder if they could get their cows to milk well enough under winter rations.

Dr. Nicholson : Well, this could be a problem. Actually, the late calving cows did do a little better job of raising their calves on the basis of average gain per day. The late calves were heavier than the early calves; but because they had a lot longer period on the cow before weaning in mid-October, they were 90 pounds heavier at weaning time. We didn't run into any real problems with the early calving; we had no more trouble from scours or white muscle disease or any other disease with the early calves than we had with the late. We didn't lose any calves because of calving during cold weather, or from climatic effects; and I think on many farms it's possible to give more attention to beef cows calving in mid-winter than calving in the spring when farmers are thinking about getting crops in, and often are so busy with other things that the beef herd is neglected.

SUCCESSFUL FARMING

PLANNING A POULTRY ENTERPRISE

Mr. Emile Simard of the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization believes that on the majority of Quebec farms poultry could become a source of extra income, in addition to providing excellent food for the farmer's table. Poultry-keeping fits in well with the growing of field crops, market-gardening, dairy farming, and certain other kinds of livestock rearing: in many cases, it also serves as an outlet for otherwise unused labour and a rewarding way of deriving income from unproductive buildings.

Since it would be difficult to do justice briefly to all of the many aspects of a poultry project, Mr. Simard simply describes the motives and achievements of a former student of the School of Agriculture at Ste-Marie.

John, who obtained his diploma in agriculture some years ago, is the owner of a farm not far from Montreal, near a fairly large village. His main sources of revenue are livestock and dairy farming. He used to wonder whether there might not be something he could do to increase his income and, after careful consideration, decided that he might easily take advantage of 2,800 square feet of unused floor space in one of his buildings, which at that time merely represented unproductive capital. Secondly, he concluded that he and his family between them could spare about two hours of labour a day without overburdening anybody. Thirdly, he realized that there was a market for between 50 and 100 dozen eggs a day almost on his doorstep.

John then set to work to consider how he could make the most profitable use of these advantages, and finally decided on poultry keeping. He devoted part of his spare time to study, consultation, thought, and calculation. "Broiler raising is too risky and specialized for anyone in my position" he reasoned: "On the other hand, I have a good, handy market for fresh eggs, so why not go in for commercial egg production ? But how shall I begin ?" This last question led him to another series of reckonings and considerations. "Shall I buy chicks or started pullets ? I could easily buy 1,000 or 1,100 pullets, 18 to 20 weeks old for $1.50 to $2.00 each now. Would that be cheaper in the long run ? If I remodel my building to house about a thousand pullets, and keep it filled to capacity all the time, that will be cheaper and more profitable than if I built a brooder house and raised my own chicks, taking into account my situation and the help I have. If I built a brooder house, either it or my poultry house would be empty and unproductive part of the time, and I should also have to face all the hazards of raising chicks."

After carefully considering these factors, John was convinced that it would be cheaper to buy pullets, on the strict understanding of course that they should be of high quality and free from disease. At this stage, he made the necessary arrangements with an expert rearer of pullets. In this way, he reduced the risks he would have to run, the amount of capital he would need to invest, and the labour involved. At the same time, he made sure of a steady output of eggs to sell, which would in turn help to assure him of a steady market — a most important point. In addition, his pullets would start bringing in an income immediately. After all, a building, like a machine, should constantly yield profits; otherwise it is just so much dead wood in need of pruning.

John made the necessary alterations to his building, taking into account adequate insulation and ventilation; and he installed all the equipment needed to give his pullets every chance of success: 279 individual nests, 90 linear feet of drinking space, 400 feet of space at feed hoppers (or 80 circular feeders) and an ample supply of grit and oystershell. When he had finished, every pullet could find all she needed without having to go more than ten feet for it. The birds were also plentifully supplied with dry litter and pure air. John had realized that it was he himself who would have to make up for his birds' lack of intelligence by protecting and feeding them, and attending to all those details that contribute so much to the profits of a poultry enterprise. It is this poultryman's instinct that is the key to success.

Having chosen an excellent flock of pullets, John bought them and made a start. Another question to which he and his family gave much thought was the manner of preparing eggs for sale. This involved: 1) frequent collecting; 2) rapid cooling and storage under suitable conditions; 3) candling and grading; 4) packing in attractive containers plainly marked with their grade and origin, "John's Poultry Farm". The date of grading was also stamped on the containers, for the protection of both producer and consumers. Clean, fresh, properly graded eggs in attractive containers: that was John's product. Thanks to his well-planned programme of poultry production and his knowledge and skill, the local customers now ask for eggs from "John's Poultry Farm". He has done honour to his school and bids fair to earn a surprising income from his flock of a thousand pullets. In 1962, he made more than $1,300 even after deductions for charges on capital, fixed and variable expenses, depreciation on his flock, and costs of marketing. A well-served customer makes a satisfied producer. A satisfied producer, from the point of view of success, is a producer who has planned his production after making a well-informed study of his situation and its possibilities.

John is convinced that, even in this day and age, it is possible to make a handsome profit from poultry, providing the poultryman plans his production carefully.

THE FAMILY FARM

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS OF THE PROVINCE
BY THE
QUEBEC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

Compiled by T. Pickup of the Information and Research Service, Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

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Dwarfing sprays for fruit trees

PHOTOGRAPHS BY OMER BEAUDOIN

Tile drainage is expensive to install, but farmers who do so, like Normand Senay of Saint-Cesaire, may obtain assistance from the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

DRAINING FIELDS WITHOUT DIGGING DITCHES

A machine demonstrated at a recent "drainage day" lays long lengths of perforated plastic pipe topped with a layer of gravel in one operation, with the minimum of disturbance to the ground surface. It has been designed at the Ministry of Agriculture's Field Drainage Experimental unit, Cambridge.

The side-mounted reel holds a coil of 3-in diameter plastic pipe which is fed into an underground channel opened up by the tractor-drawn giant vee-blade attachment. A 3-in bandwidth of gravel from the hopper at the rear is placed above the pipe as it is being laid. Using a crawler tractor that provides a 16,000-lb. pull, the machine operates at the rate of 100 ft a minute, reaching a depth of 33 in in heavy clay or 54 in in light soils.

The depth and slope of the drains are controlled semi-automatically by radio signals which control the tractor's hydraulic system; they are transmitted by an observer who has an optical level sighted on the machine, parallel to the path of the drain. A fully automatic control system that uses a flickering light beam as a datum line is also on trial.

If all goes well, this new field drainage technique may come into commercial operation in Britain later this year. The prototype semi-automatic machine is already being used to train drainage contractors to work the system.

A somewhat similar technique has recently been developed to install water supply and sewerage pipelines made from larger-bore plastic pipes, 4 to 10 in diameter. This Yates Badger system uses a winch-drawn blade to form the underground channel. Ten-inch pipe

(Continued on page 14)

DAIRY POLICY STATEMENT

by Agriculture Minister Harry Hays

OTTAWA, June, 1965 — Certain questions have been raised about the government's new dairy policy. These questions and indications in correspondence reaching my Department suggest that some farmers are still not fully aware as to just how the new policy affects them.

As I said on March 26th in announcing the new policy for the 1965-66 dairy year, the objective is a national average return of $3.50 per hundredweight for manufacturing milk consumed in Canada.

I would like to emphasize that this is not a guarantee to each producer but to the industry as a whole. It does not mean that every shipper will receive exactly $3.50.

The farmer's total return will still depend on how well he does in negotiating the price he gets at the plant.

The objective of a national average return of $3.50 will be reached through two direct but separate payments from the government to the producers. Neither of these payments has yet been made.

The first will be made during the dairy year, starting in a couple of months or so, and the second will be made after the dairy year ends next March 31st.

The first cheque farmers receive will be a supplementary payment based on their deliveries during the last dairy year. To qualify they must have delivered at least 10,000 pounds.

Forms for producers to make their claims for this payment are being mailed to producers this week. We hope they will fill in these claims and mail them back as soon as possible. They cannot be sent their supplementary payments until these forms are filled in and returned.

As I announced previously, this supplementary payment will be made at the rate of 25 cents per hundredweight for the first 48,000 pounds delivered last dairy year, 20 cents per hundredweight on the next 48,000 pounds and 10 cents per hundredweight on all eligible manufacturing milk delivered over 96,000 pounds. The supplementary payment will amount, on a national basis, to 20 cents per hundredweight.

But again let me emphasize that this is a national average and does not mean every producer will necessarily get exactly 20 cents. Some will receive more and others less.

The second cheque farmers will receive under the new dairy policy will be for a deficiency payment, which cannot be made until the dairy year is closed, when all returns can be averaged.

Both these payments will also be made to cream shippers on the basis of butter fat in their cream shipments.

The new policy is using a deficiency payment to bring the national average return for manufacturing milk and cream used in Canada up to a support level of $3.50 per hundredweight. It uses the supplementary lump sum payment to raise the level to $3.50.

There still seems to be a great deal of confusion as to just how a deficiency payment works. Deficiency payments are used to support other agriculture products. In every case the deficiency payment is a national average and not a guarantee of an exact same price for every producer.

The use of the deficiency payment system of support still leaves a very important area in which the producer's own private enterprise remains an essential factor. This area is in his dealings with the processing plant.

The new dairy deficiency payment will be determined as follows. The Agricultural Stabilization Board will keep a record, on a monthly basis, of the total amount of money farmers receive for milk delivered to approximately 300 processing plants across Canada. Total returns will be divided by total deliveries to give a true weighted average price received by farmers for deliveries across Canada. These records will be accumulated for the full eleven months of the present policy to give a national average price at the plant.

Thus the national average plant price will automatically include geographic location, products manufactured, premiums for bulk tanks, quality premiums, winter bonuses, subsidized transportation and so on.

But any subsidies paid by a provincial government will not be included in calculating the national average price.

The deficiency payment which farmers receive after the dairy year ends will be the difference between the national average plant price — calculated on the basis I have just outlined—and the support level of $3.30.

And as I have already said, this deficiency payment will be additional to the supplementary payment, to achieve the objective of a national average return of $3.50.

In view of the considerable confusion that seems to have arisen on this point, I would like to repeat that this does not mean every producer in the country will receive $3.50. Let me give a couple of examples of how this would work out for individual producers if the deficiency payment were to be, say, 25 cents per hundredweight. If a farmer managed to get $3.10 from the plant for his milk and his supplementary payment came to 20 cents, he would then also get the 25-cent deficiency payment for a total return of $3.55. If a farmer accepted only $3.00 from the plant, then his total return would be only $3.45 — that is, his plant price, plus his supplementary payment of 20 cents, plus the deficiency payment.

As to where this new policy leaves the industry, I think the producers' returns speak for themselves. The estimated national average return to producers for the last dairy year was $3.06 per hundredweight — which means it will be about 45 cents per hundredweight higher for the current dairy year.

The estimated national average return for the five-year-period prior to the last dairy year was $2.89 — which means our producers will, on average, be ahead 60 cents per hundredweight for the current dairy year, and that they were already nearly 20 cents per hundredweight better off last year.

And this has been achieved without building up or encouraging surpluses that could destroy the program.

This page supplied in the interests of the Family Farm by the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

Soluble Aluminum in Acid Soils Retards Legume Establishment

Abundance of alfalfa and a fine Ayrshire herd on the farm of Armand Peloquin at Sainte-Victoire, Richelieu.

L. B. MacLeod and L. P. Jackson

Dr. MacLeod is Head of the Soils and Plant Nutrition Section and Mr. Jackson is an agronomist with the CDA Experimental Farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia.

The primary cause of failure in establishing legumes such as alfalfa and red clover on unlimed or inadequately limed, acid soils is the presence of aluminum in the ionic form. Aluminum is present in all mineral soils but only when in the soluble form does it pose any danger to crops. Aluminum ions cause poor establishment by restricting the growth of roots down into the soil where they normally obtain the nutrients and moisture needed for successful establishment.

Legume seedlings are most susceptible to aluminum injury during the phase of early seedling development when the source of nutrient supply is shifting from the food reserves in the seed to active uptake from the soil. Forage legumes, which have comparatively small seed reserves and which must start to feed from the soil quickly, once germinated, are more susceptible to injury by aluminum than are other crop species having large seed reserves.

The amount of aluminum ion in soil will vary but it depends largely on the pH. For example, at a pH of 4.6 we found the concentration of aluminum ion in Tormentine sandy loam to be 2.22 ppm or 4.5 lb. per acre. When this soil was limed to a pH of 6.5, the concentration of aluminum ion was so low that it could not be measured. The danger of aluminum toxicity is greatest in soils at a pH of 5.0 or lower, since at a pH of 5.8 or above, the amount of aluminum ion present is negligible.

Liming will increase the pH in the surface but it is very slow to penetrate to the subsoil. For this reason, lime amendments may not greatly improve the subsoil environment insofar as the growth of roots is concerned. Since deep rooting of forage species is imperative for sustained production during the months of July and August, when periods of high soil moisture stress may occur, it seemed desirable to have more knowledge of what aluminum ion concentration would restrict rooting or be toxic to roots.

In order to explore further the role of high aluminum ion concentrations on the growth of legumes, we conducted a greenhouse experiment using nutrient solution cultures where the concentration of aluminum ion could be closely controlled.

Alfalfa and red clover were germinated in an inert silica medium in containers with nylon net bottoms (window screening) to allow the roots to grow through. These were placed on top of beakers containing the nutrient solutions so that after germination the only source of nutrients was from the solutions (Fig. 1). Aluminum was supplied to the nutrient solutions at concentrations of 0, 0.5, 1, 2, 4 and 10 ppm, but the concentration of aluminum ions actually present in solution was 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 ppm. The nutrient solutions were changed daily to maintain this aluminum concentration. Each species was also seeded in the silica medium and allowed to root in unlimed (pH of 4.6) and limed (pH of 6.5), Tormentine sandy loam soil. Forty days after seeding, the plants were harvested and divided into top and root portions so that the effect of aluminum on both root and top growth could be measured.

The yield of the top and root portions of both alfalfa and red clover were higher with aluminum ion concentrations up to 0.4 ppm than where no aluminum was added. Yield was lower at 1.0 ppm but red clover appeared to be more tolerant of aluminum ion than alfalfa at 1.0 ppm. At 2.0 ppm root growth of both species was prevented (Fig. 2).

Alfalfa and red clover both grew better in limed than in unlimed soil (Fig. 3).

In general, when plants are grown in a sufficient concentration of aluminum ion to cause injury, the element collects in the roots while the tops may have relatively little aluminum present. The most striking characteristic of aluminum toxicity, we have observed, is the stunted root growth with brown or black discolorations and thickenings at the root tips. If the concentration of aluminum ion is sufficiently high to be toxic, the cortex cells in the root become saturated with aluminum. Branch roots cannot emerge through this layer and the result is a series of darkened lumps on the tap root instead of the normal, fully developed branch and fibrous roots. Alfalfa roots grown on Tormentine soil limed to a pH of 5.2 were vigorous with abundant branch roots and showed evidence of nodules containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria (Fig. 4a). Roots grown on unlimed soil (pH 4.6) were small, lacked branch roots, and had darkened lumps which are typical of aluminum toxicity (Fig. 4b).

Our experiments have shown that small rates of lime applied in the immediate vicinity of the seed decreases the aluminum concentration in the vicinity of the roots and allows initial growth. By the time the roots have grown through this protective zone they have passed the critical stage of development and can tolerate higher concentrations of aluminum. The initial rooting stage is the most critical period since the plant becomes more tolerant to

(Continued on page 15)

This page supplied in the interests of the Family Farm by the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

Faced with a shortage of help, Paul Begin of St-Evariste, Frontenac, decided to raise beef cattle. In 1962, when this picture was taken, he had 75 Shorthorns, including two bulls.

AID FOR THE TRANSPORT OF LIVESTOCK FOR SLAUGHTER

It is recognized that for farmers located far from abattoirs the cost of shipping livestock for slaughter is comparatively high.

A subsidy on the transport of live animals to slaughterhouses will have the effect of bringing remote regions thus handicapped closer to the markets in an economic sense, and thus facilitating movement of animals from outlying districts and encouraging the raising of livestock in them.

ZONES AND RATES

Zoning :

For the purpose of this subsidy, the outlying regions are divided into four zones, each made up of a number of electoral districts, as follows ;—

Zone 1 : Charlevoix, Compton, Gatineau, Kamouraska, Labelle, L'Islet, Papineau, Pontiac, Stanstead.

Zone 2 Rivière-du-Loup, Témiscouata.

Zone 3 : Abitibi East, Abitibi West, Bonaventure, Duplessis, Gaspé North, Gaspé South, Magdalen Islands, Rouyn-Noranda, Saguenay, Témiscamingue.

Zone 4 Matane, Matapedia, Rimouski.

Rates :

Kind	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Cattle	$3.00	$5.00	$8.00	$6.00
Calves	.50	1.00	2.50	1.50
Sheep and lambs	.50	.75	1.50	1.00
Pigs	.50	1.00	2.50	1.50

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment of these subsidies will be made through the abattoirs by means of cheques made out and mailed directly to the farmers in question. The Department of Agriculture and Colonization will periodically reimburse the abattoirs for sums thus paid.

REGULATIONS

1. The farmer-producer may only claim this subsidy on behalf of animals which were born on his farm or fattened on it during a period of not less than 30 days.
2. The animals must be delivered to and slaughtered in an inspected abattoir in Montreal, Quebec, Princeville, Hull, St-Bruno, or Chicoutimi.
3. The carrier must use the official bill of lading of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.
4. This bill of lading must be filled in and signed by the carrier and countersigned by the farmer-producer.
5. Bills of lading are available at offices of county and district agronomes and from the Animal Productions Division, Department of Agriculture and Colonization, Quebec City.
6. These regulations replace the former ones and are effective from the 1st of April 1965.
7. This assistance policy will remain in force until further notice.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Colonization.

Ernest Mercier

QUEBEC, 1st of April, 1965.

HOW LONG CAN A SEED STAY FERTILE ?

(New Scientist, March 25th, 1965)

How long can isolated seeds, or seeds contained in fruits, remain able to germinate and grow into new plants? Records of wheat grains from the wrappings of Egyptian mummies sprouting seem to be baseless. Two well authenticated cases, however, are of seeds of *Nelumbium*, from the Hans Sloane collection in the British Museum, dated 1705, which germinated 237 years later in 1947, and seeds of *Albizzia julibrissia* on British Museum herbarium sheets which were collected in 1793 and germinated 147 years later in 1940, after being accidentally soaked by the water used to put out an air-raid fire.

Another claimant for the seed longevity record remains to be considered. These are the lotus fruits recovered from the mud of a drained lake in South Manchuria some years ago. These have been found to show almost 100 per cent germination, and their age has been estimated by some workers to be some thousands of years. Recently, however, according to H. Godwin and E. H. Willis, of Cambridge University, their age has been redetermined using modern methods, and found to be only 160 years. In fact, they were indistinguishable from a block of 1845 oak wood kept as a standard for comparison, so their claim to fame needs reassessment *(New Phytologist,* Vol. 63, p. 410).

This, and previous page, supplied in the interests of the Family Farm by the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

DRAINING FIELDS WITHOUT DIGGING TRENCHES

(Continued)

can be laid to a depth of 4 ft in peat and marshland, and diameters up to 7 in in all other ground except solid rock; 600-ft lengths of pipe are fed to the machine from a short trench.

When this system was used to install 12,200 yd of 4-in PVC pipe, linking five Yorkshire villages to a central sewerage works, the work was completed in 11 days. A conventional pipe-laying method would have taken at least three months.

Laurent Bergevin, of Howick, Chateauguay County, with some cobs of corn.

REGIONAL GRAIN CORN CONTEST 1965

In order to promote growing of this special, profitable crop, the Hon. Alcide Courcy, Minister of Agriculture and Colonization desires to encourage a healthy competitive spirit among farmers, and therefore offers the sum of $700 to be shared among the ten best growers of grain corn, as follows :

1st	$150	6th	$50
2nd	125	7th	45
3nd	100	8th	40
4th	75	9th	35
5th	60	10th	20

Territory

Only zones receiving 2,500 or more heat units during the growing season are suitable for grain corn.

The crop is thus restricted to the following counties or parts of counties ;

Argenteuil
Bagot
Beauharnois
Berthier
Chambly
Deux-Montagnes
Drummond
Hull-Gatineau South
Huntingdon
Iberville
Joliette
Laprairie
L'Assomption
Laval
Maskinongé
Missisquoi
Montcalm
Napierville
Nicolet
Papineau
Pontiac
Richelieu
Rouville
St-Hyacinthe
St-Jean
Shefford
Soulanges
Terrebonne
Vaudreuil
Verchères
Yamaska
Châteauguay

Conditions

Competitors are required —

1 — to sow an area of at least five acres;

2 — to submit a signed entry form to the Agronome's office before the first of August 1965;

3 — sow the land at the rate of 8 to 11 pounds per acre using seed of one of the following varieties recommended by the Quebec Seed Board :
DeKalb 29, Pride 4, Funk's G 2, United Hagie 108, Jacques 850J, Pioneer 3891, Pride 5, Warwick 263, P.A.G. 26.

Judging

Entries will be judged a few days before harvest. Judging will be based on the following points :

Choice of site and soil and preparation of the land, fertilization of the soil, absence of weeds, maturity, percentage of moisture in the grain, and estimated yield.

The judges' decision shall be final.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Colonization

Ernest Mercier

QUEBEC, June 15th, 1965.

This page supplied in the interests of the Family Farm by the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

(From "News from the Canada Department of Agriculture", No. 1119).

DWARFING SPRAYS FOR FRUIT TREES

Leaf sprays of the growth-retarding chemical N-dimethyl amino succinamic acid have made some fruit trees flower more abundantly and grow new shoots less vigorously than untreated trees.

These experiments were started two years ago at Wenatchee, Washington, in cooperation with the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station. Treated trees had two to twelve times as many flowers as untreated trees, but only 50 per cent of their new shoot growth (*Agricultural Research,* Vol. 13, No. 5, p. 3). Sprays applied to apple trees increased the storage quality of the fruit and prevented the development of "scald" — a disorder that appears after removal from storage and sometimes causes much wastage — and significantly extended shelf life. Fruit from treated trees was firmer and softened more slowly when taken out from store than fruit from untreated trees.

Apples and pears from treated trees tend to be smaller than normal, but this effect might be overcome by using lower concentrations of the retardant. Should the technique prove acceptable (as yet it is purely experimental), it could help to increase fruit production.

THE FEEDING OF ROASTER CHICKENS

The production of roaster chickens is only profitable in so far as the birds can be reared quickly and economically. Mr. Ulric Gauthier of the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization points out that, in the planning of the birds' diet, certain considerations are involved which must not be neglected, because the success of this kind of poultry enterprise is so closely linked with costs of feeding and rearing.

It is now possible to produce roasters weighing 7 or 8 pounds at 14 to 16 weeks of age. To get results such as this, it is necessary to choose birds from a high-quality line and feed them a well-balanced ration. Feed components which provide energy — carbohydrates and fats — should not make up too large a proportion of the ration of roaster chickens, because their diet should be designed for the production of flesh rather than fat.

A good feeding programme is important from the earliest stages of growth. During the first two days, the feed of roaster chickens should consist entirely of finely cracked grains or crumbles. For the remainder of the first three weeks, a starter mash containing 20 to 22% of protein will be suitable. From the fourth to the ninth week, a 17-20% protein broiler-mash is recommended. (Some poultrymen use a growing mash during this period). From the tenth week onwards, a 15-18% protein growing-mash or a "broiler-finishing mash" should be fed.

Finally, the prevention of diseases by the use of vaccines and prompt treatment of diseases (if any) will help to speed the growth of the birds.

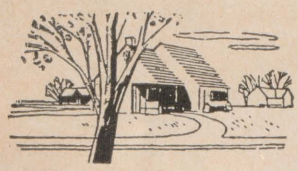
Soluble Aluminum in Acid Soils

(Continued)

the toxic effects of aluminum as it matures.

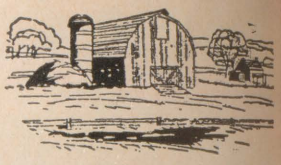
These experimental results suggest that the use of agricultural limestone can eliminate the danger of aluminum toxicity in the surface soil. A moderate application of limestone will increase the pH of the surface soil sufficiently to reduce the concentration of soluble aluminum and allow unrestricted root growth. After a soil has been limed to a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and fertilized to provide adequate nutrients, legumes can be readily established in most well-drained soils in Eastern Canada.

However, even though the surface soil is limed, acid subsoils may still restrict deep penetration of roots. This problem will have to be resolved either by liming to greater depths or by the development of varieties that have a greater tolerance for aluminum.



The Better Impulse

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF QUEBEC



COUNTY PROJECT: STANSTEAD ON T.V.

The W.I., represented by Mrs.R. Knight, County President, Mrs. D. Johnson and Miss V. Moranville were interviewed on an International Broadcast, on WCAX TV Channel 3, Burlington, Vermont. Good !

Ayers' Cliff celebrated their 50th Anniversary at well-attended meeting. Stanstead North presented the honoured branch with a birthday cake, which was cut by Mrs. S. Worthen.

Hatley Centre placed a picnic table at the roadside as a summer community project.

FROM THE OFFICE

We find changes in county officers since the annual reports were sent in. If this has been so in your county, please let us know at once for the Annual Report.

The Tandy Leather Co., 1218 Drummond St., Montreal, (where our technicians got their supplies) will give free courses in leather work and leather tooling to any group of at least 10 — preferably 15. Students pay only for materials.

The Salada Foods Ltd. no longer supplies free tea and coffee to organizations for special "do's", but they do give special rates on quantities. Address Miss Beauregard, Salada Foods Ltd., 5430 Cote de Liesse, Montreal, Que.

AT THE CONVENTION: Mrs. H. Oke, Oka WI, with the exhibit of Indian handicrafts.

CORRECTION, PLEASE!

Upper Lachute East End's play, chosen for the drama contest, was an original play written by Mrs. D. Rigby, not as reported in the May Issue. Sorry!

WINNERS OF THE SALADA COMPETITION

PLACE MATS

1st — Mrs. Robt. Gill, Ste. Annes.

QUILTS

1st Mrs. Clarence Pease, Cleveland.

3rd Granby Hill WI

3rd — Mrs. Jack Smith, Dalesville-Louisa

CROCHETED BEDSPREAD

1st — Mrs. J.R. Walker, Marcil

2nd — Mrs. M.D. Blue, Sawyerville

3rd — Mrs. Henry Jones, Waterloo-Warden

3rd — Mrs. E. Drummond, Belvidere

KNITTED AFGHAN

1st — Mrs. M. Morency, Ste. Annes

2nd — Mrs. E. Prinn, Harwood

3rd—Mrs. J. Fontaine, Granby West

3rd — Mrs. J. R. Walker, Marcil

APRONS (set of 3)

1st Mrs. E. G. Prinn, Harwood

2nd Mme. A. Vallière, Val d'Or

3rd Mrs. Percy Miller, Wakeham

OUR FARAWAY SISTERS

The Women's Division of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand have been sending sewing machines to Fiji. They are loaned to the women's Clubs. One Club charges ten coconuts for the use of a machine to a member making new clothes, five coconuts to mend her old clothes.

The Tuktoyaktuk WI in our Northwest Territories is in the permafrost region. About the only way they can see anything growing is plants in the house or window boxes. They wondered if some of their southern sisters who live where there is soil, would send them small parcels of soil ? That's something new in parcels.

AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM "Hands across the Border"

The Stanstead County WI appeared as special guests June 1st on WCAX-TV, Burlington, Vt. on the program "Across the Fence".

It was an international program with Tony Adams, announcer, and featuring a Canadian group on this American station. Mrs. Rixford Knight, County President, explained the aims and purpose of the Women's Institutes, mentioning some of their projects. One project is the annual County School Fair, on which Mrs. Douglas Johnston, county Convenor of Agriculture, spoke and answered questions. She also showed some recent exhibits. Views of Stanstead County and WI's were displayed.

The full program was arranged by the popular Miss Viola Moranville of Beebe, who has done many broadcasts for the WI's. The guests also sat in on the Helen Workman program.

In the USA members of the Bureaux of Farm Women and Home Demonstration Councils, along with some other organizations such as Farm & Garden Clubs, are members of ACWW.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

"Thank you excerpts from letters received - 1964" :-

Rome, Italy ;

Many thanks for Christmas Stockings; they are always a great joy for so many children and for us to distribute.

Ortona, Italy :

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness which made it possible for us to send Christmas Stockings to the various villages — they'll be distributed from some "Santa Claus" on or about the 19th December after the traditional Christmas play.

Korea ;

The Christmas Stockings will be going out in a few days — we start early because we have to fit in so many work centres and try to give them all a party — thank you so much; the stockings are always received so gratefully by the children.

Viet-Nam :

I present to you all of my thanks for your kindness and generosity; the stockings mean such a lot to the children here.

Moosonee, Ont. :

Thank you again for your efforts to help us give joy to our poor and less fortunate Indian boys and girls — may God bless you and your dear ones every day of the New Year, 1965.

ON THE FARM

Dear Min :

Fair month. When we were small there were TWO DAYS in the year,

(Continued on page 22)

THE MONTH WITH THE W.I.

ARGENTEUIL: ARUNDEL answered roll call by giving a law which is broken every day; interesting talk by Mr. G. Proulx, notary of St. Jovite, on making wills and other legal documents; worked on fair and bazaar items for July event. BROWNSBURG : Mr. Whiteway from St. John's Ambulance discussed first aid methods; demonstration of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; donated to support of members of Welfare Agency; toured Calwell Linen Mills. DALESVILLE-LOUISA: roll call answered by each member bringing a homemade article for exchange among members; cake decoration demonstration given by Mrs. G. Hunt. RONTIER saw slides of England, Scotland and France; each member who took part in recent plays was presented with a Silver Dollar as a souvenir. JERUSALEM-BETHANY : a casserole supper preceded their meeting; slides shown by Miss H. Smith; Why I am a WI Member was the roll call. LAKEFIELD exchanged salad recipes; garden hints given. MORIN HEIGHTS were entertained by Mrs. Kanan, a WI member from Isle of Man, who gave interesting report on Women's Institute on the Isle, and on the people who live there; Mrs. Moore showed slides of canoe trip up Messina River to James Bay taken by herself and her husband through Indian Territory, travelling in all approximately 1000 miles and seeing trails not used for over 30 years. UPPER LACHUTE EAST END heard report of Leadership Course attended by Mrs. K. Warwick; named prominent Canadian man as roll call; made covers for new programs. PIONEER : each member read her favourite recipe; fair articles collected; excerpts read from Macdonald Journal; held bring-and-buy sale.

ABITIBI EAST : MATAGAMI's Health and Welfare Committee have begun negotiations with the Mayor and Council to see about the feasibility of obtaining services of a dentist, or establishing a hospital for the community; held turkey dinner as part of County meeting, and enjoyed and benefited from the visit of Mrs. Ossington, Mrs. Wells and County President, Mrs. Avery; had a "Touch and Take" table.

BONAVENTURE: BLACK CAPE : question and answer period on household hints proved helpful and interesting; members purchased History of QWI; named a fashion fad of the 1920's and paid 1¢ per year of married life. GRAND CASCAPEDIA held discussion on Road Signs with suggestions for Safety Council League; held homebake sale; donated to Save the Children Fund. MARCIL's president reported on her trip to Levis for A.R.D.A. Convention; were hostess branch for County Convention. MATAPEDIA held social evening which earned a considerable sum; donated prize money to each school to be distributed by the principal in most worthwhile manner; assisted at Red Cross Blitz. RESTIGOUCHE heard 2 papers, one "Put Women on the Staff", one on "Mother's Day holds Precious Memories; gift sent to hospitalized child; held successful card party.

BROME : ABERCORN named their favourite TV program; donated to Sutton Library. KNOWLTON's LANDING held an agriculture meeting, with short-cuts on growing flowers; handed in Talent money; held successful food sale; entertained County Convention. SOUTH BOLTON carefully discussed report of County Convention. SUTTON held contest on the planting of gardens; donated to the Public Library; exchanged house plants and garden annuals.

CHATEAUGUAY-HUNTINGDON : AUBREY - RIVERFIELD held social evening to entertain grandmothers, at home of Mrs. G. Kees. DEWITTVILLE heard Mrs. R. Gill speak on her visit to WI branches in England. DUNDEE donated to Save the Children Fund. FRANKLIN CENTRE held silent auction. HEMMINGFORD enjoyed visit of the County President, Mrs. H. Robertson, who spoke on the W.I., and on a recent trip to Charlottetown; Mrs. E. Keddy spoke on her experiences at the Leadership Course. HOWICK held quiz on Flags; held tea biscuit contest. HUNTINGDON : Mrs A. Reid gave a book review on "Why the Sea is Boiling Hot"; drew up prize list for Huntingdon Fair; after considerable thought it has been decided that the Laura Rose Stephen legacy shall be used as a bursary for high school students; six lovely quilts made by 2 ladies were on display, and will be donated to Unitarian Service Committee; held quiz on age periods; members grieved over the sudden death of a member, Mrs. Perkins, who died suddenly the day after the May WI meeting which she attended; contributions in her memory by neighbours and friends were given to County Hospital and to the WI Loan Fund for High School students. ORMSTOWN heard paper on formation of the first rural WI in Ireland; heard interesting talk on the Queen's horses, carriage and other items connected with Coronation pageantry, their origin, etc.

COMPTON : BROOKBURY discussed the need for painting their WI Hall, and followed through on the job, and are now enjoying results of this Beautification project; donated towels were won by a member; prize money for grades 1-11 and for public speaking prizes donated to Pope Memorial School; prize money donated to Bishopton Elementary School; held a Reunion. BURY : Most interesting talk given by Miss Barbara Barter on the work of the Junior Red Cross, with films shown of the Convention she attended recently in Nova Scotia. CANTERBURY held a paper drive, and contributed to Share-a-Loaf Plan. COOKSHIRE heard a talk by Mrs. J. W. French on the Canadian Flag and the Coat-of-Arms; FWIC Centennial plans discussed; convener of Agriculture spoke on the life of Jack Miner and his bird sanctuary at Kingsville, Ont. EAST ANGUS gave an historical event in our community as roll call; held paper drive; donated $25.00 school bursary, donated to Cookshire School Fair, to Sherbrooke Hospital and to Maplemont Home. EAST CLIFTON held paper drive; bought flowers for the cemetery; SAWYERVILLE Mrs. George Halliday showed articles of jewellery and other items brought from her recent trip to Mexico. SCOTSTOWN held successful paper drive; life membership given to member who is also member of the Compton County Historical and Museum Society; donated to Sherbrooke Hospital.

GATINEAU: AYLMER EAST Miss Anna Hall and Miss Nancy Hall of the Red Cross gave most interesting talk on Water Safety, Rescue Breathing and First Aid; As roll call "name your ailment"; Mrs. Hillard Holmes gave full report of the Leadership Course which she attended; Miss M. Dompiere of the Hull and District Home Care Programme, spoke on the need for voluntary helpers for 4-8 hours a day to help people who would otherwise be hospitalized; held contest on the new Canadian Flag. EARDLEY had as guest Miss Mildred Robinson, who showed slides and gave a talk on her trip to Nassau; Mrs. S. Robinson read article on the Quebec Service Fund; gift to burned-out family; sale of slips and plants. RUPERT as a Centennial Project planted two flowering Crab trees in Rupert Cemetery; held contest on flowers and vegetables, and a song contest; named a spring flower; exchanged plants. WAKEFIELD planned

Annual Garden Party. WRIGHT held contest on flowers; members and friends enjoyed a day in Ottawa, a boat trip on the Ottawa River, lunch, a guided tour of Government House, and tea at the Mackenzie King Tea Room at Kingsmere — trip arranged by Mrs. E. Kelly and Mrs. S. Ogilvie.

JACQUES CARTIER : STE. ANNE'S had a V.O.N. Nurse as guest speaker, who outlined the work done by a V. O.N. when she visits a home; 9 members worked on an appliqued quilt to be exhibited with other handicrafts at Provincial Convention; enjoyed tile course with Miss McOuat; Mrs Legge, member now residing in England sent a sweater to be sold, with proceeds to go to new Lakeshore General Hospital Fund.

MEGANTIC : INVERNESS heard report of Operation Quimac which was attended by 2 members; heard article on Home Economics. K I N N E A R ' S MILLS : heard report of the Inverness delegates to the Leadership Course, and how to apply what they learned to the work of the branch; heard practical ideas for Institute work; donated to Adelaide Hoodless Home, and to Sherbrooke General Hospital.

MISSISQUOI : COWANSVILLE : a letter was read explaining the work of the Student's Loan Fund, to which the Branch contributes; report of Leadership Course given by member who attended; member reported on a meeting of the local Social Welfare Court; sale of slips and garden plants held. DUNHAM bought a new Canadian Flag; named a flower beginning with the member's initial as roll call; contest on recipes and on spices held. FORDYCE: a deed of land, to be known as the WI Centennial Picnic Plot was presented by a member, work on same to begin immediately; donated to Adelaide Hoodless Homestead; STANBRIDGE EAST : an article read on the Golden Jubilee of the WI in England.

MONTCALM : RAWDON heard good report of the Leadership course attended by 2 members; Mrs. A. Asbil, a senior member, gave an account of her experience in appearing on the TV Program, "Flashback".

PAPINEAU : LOCHABER enjoyed visit from Mrs. Beattie and Mrs. Wells; held contest on naming world and Canadian capitals; exhibit of a pot of artificial flowers made from Javex bottle; exchanged favourite recipes; started Share-a-Loaf plan.

QUEBEC : VALCARTIER enjoyed the visit of Mrs. Ossington, who spoke on general W.I. work; saw a film on the Congo, and Women in the Congo.

RICHMOND : CLEVELAND entertained GORE at their meeting, where bingo was played. GORE had Dr. Dykeman as guest speaker, his topic being "The Heart"; donated prize money for Richmond Fair; donated to Dixville Home for purchase of educational toys and playground equipment; donated to Sherbrooke Hospital. MELBOURNE RIDGE welcomed a new member; had enjoyable course in Ceramics with Miss McOuat with over 50 articles completed; donated toward playground equipment for Dixville Home; heard report of delegate to Leadership Course. RICHMOND HILL held contest on "Minds" won by Mrs. V. Farant; hand-crotchered bedspread, made by a member to be sold; donated money for purchase of playground equipment for Dixville Home; collected cottons for Cancer; welcomed a new member. RICHMOND YOUNG WOMEN catered to County Convention; held weiner roast. SHIPTON held very successful bazaar and tea; sold quilt made by the branch. SPOONER POND held successful Rummage sale; collect Pennies for Friendship at each meeting; donated toward playground equipment for Dixville Home; articles of clothing brought by each member for Cecil Butler Home; held apron sale.

ROUVILLE : ABBOTSFORD : a successful cold turkey and salad supper for the community, proved a merry as well as a profitable venture; as entertainment, 2 vignettes "The Garnet Brooch" and "School Memories" were read by the author-member, Miss A Buzzell; slides of Bermuda were shown by Mr. and Mrs. H. Marshall.

ROUYN-NORANDA : ARNTFIELD entertained County Convention, with Mrs. Ossington and Mrs. Wells as Provincial guests. NORANDA held successful bake sale to raise funds to provide Library Cards to some school children : it is hoped that the presentation of these cards will promote interest in good books and improve the calibre of reading; excellent Ceramic Tile course given by County President, Mrs. V. Richards, to interested members and others in the community, with many articles made including a large coffee table, trays, trivets, ashtrays and picture frames.

SHEFFORD: GRANBY WEST: each member purchased QWI History; heard paper on the Montreal General Hospital and its progress; contest on trees and shrubs. WATERLOO WARDEN held food sale, silent auction, and bulb and plant sale; heard article about detergents, wax and polishes; contributed to Mental Health Society campaign; contest using members names in old songs was held.

SHERBROOKE : ASCOT purchased Coupon # 367; held plant and bulb auction. BELVEDERE heard article on Joy of Living in the Country with Nature; exchange of slips and bulbs; display of antique quilts and of a sampler made in 1837. BROMPTON ROAD made baby blankets for Maplemont Home; contest on peanut butter cookies.

LENNOXVILLE welcomed new member; presented a play to be entered in the Drama Contest; heard article about Queen's Garden Party for WI members; noted that women in Quebec should celebrate 25 years of suffrage; mourned passing of a good member. MILBY: Mrs. W. Coates gave resume of her trip to National 4 H Conference in Saskatoon; African violets distributed for fall competition; held successful paper drive.

STANSTEAD : AYERS CLIFF presented play for Drama Contest; held food sale and paper drive; Mr. E. J. Struthers was guest speaker on topic "Early History of Our Locality". BEBE members invited to Orleans County Home Economics Council Annual Meeting at Barton, Vermont; donated to Mother's Day funds in two Sherbrooke and two Newport, Vt. hospitals; paper read on nutritious wild plants; speaker on gardening and maintenance; enjoyed visit of the County President, Mrs. R. Knight; toured Ethan Allen Furniture Plant in Orleans, Vt. HATLEY heard report on Magog Health Unit; held paper drive; distributed seeds to local school children, and donated to prize money for the County school fair; bulbs and shrubs purchased and distributed to members. HATLEY CENTRE's convener of Agriculture attended ARDA meeting, and reported it; held fudge contest, and later sold fudge at the meeting; donated remnants were sold; NORTH HATLEY held quiz on Canada. STANSTEAD NORTH had a member speak on TV; each member read poem on "Grandmother"; flowers and plants ordered by WI were delivered; a family get-together supper was held with great success.

TWO MOUNTAINS : held social evening, and a birthday party for a member.

VAUDREUIL : HARWOOD : Mrs A. Bramwell gave a commentary and slides of European cities; picnic tables are being prepared and readied for placement at roadsides.

THE PROBLEMS OF AGING

Life expectancy rates have been steadily climbing in the past decade. The result is a rapidly increasing population of senior citizens in society, totally unprepared for this explosion. Man's long period of leisure at the end of a career becomes a shock instead of a pleasure.

CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

Mrs. Philip Matheson
President, Federated Wowen's Institutes of Canada

(From "Research for Farmers", Spring 1965)

So much is being said and written lately about women, their work and their leisure, that I think it behooves us, as Women's Institute members, to take stock and, maybe, express our views.

We are part of the largest group of rural women in the world, and as such, have a terrific influence on a large percentage of the world's population.

It was said of the FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA, when it was organized in 1919, "In the Federation of Women's Institutes, there has arisen a mighty force whose influence knows no bounds."

It was said by Mrs. Raymond Sayre, "that the ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD is a bridge of understanding, a window to the world," of which all WOMEN'S INSTITUTE members are a part; working to promote and maintain friendly and helpful relations between country women's and homemakers' organizations of all nations and to give any possible help in their development in the economic, social and cultural spheres.

But what is the makeup of each individual member, and what is this MYSTIQUE that we hear so much about ?

We W.I.'ers come from all professions — some with little formal education, others with degrees in various fields, some from the city but most of us from the rural areas. Our profession now; *Housewife*. Please do not say, "Just a housewife" or "Just a farmer's wife." We certainly have nothing to be ashamed of and much to be proud of.

Now we are attending the "RURAL WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY", as our Organization has been so aptly called.

For the sake of argument, let us take a look at women's lot as far back as we can remember. Immediately, you will think of your own mother, or grandmother, maybe even your great grandmother.

Some of us will remember farther back than others, but whether we actually remember or remember about hearing is of no consequence. It is safe to say, though, that everyone can remember very great changes in our lifetime.

We cannot remember when our forefathers spent months to sail across the Ocean to this new world, and then fell the trees to build a log cabin in which to live. Then clear the land and endure the hardships of which we cannot conceive. Nor can we remember when others later went West to settle and open up the great Prairie lands, and again endure untold dangers and difficulties. We are the descendents of those hardy pioneers to whom we owe so much. But maybe you are a NEW CANADIAN, and as such, have memories of trying hardships in more recent years.

Let us compare the homes first —

A typical farmhouse was usually large. The large kitchen was the place where the family lived — ate, worked and played. It was behind the kitchen range, in the wash tub, that the children's Saturday night bath took place. On the mantle were the kerosene oil lamps which had to be filled, trimmed and polished daily. There was the box to fill with firewood, the tank to fill with water, which maybe had to be pumped by hand — maybe you can remember turning the windlass to bring up the buckets of water or even carry it from a spring.

The furniture was not elaborate but undoubtedly there was one or two rocking chairs among it. Adjoining the kitchen was the pantry with no great display of cupboards, but surely with a flour barrel in one corner.

Remember the parlor which was used on very special occasions, when the minister came to call, a family wedding, and for the funerals. Otherwise it was kept closed and dark. A peep in there was a treat for the children. But if there was an organ there, what lovely singsongs of old favorites were enjoyed when company came !

Then there was the "Spare Room" where the babies were born and where overnight guests would sleep. There seemed to be time for relatives and friends to spend a day or days on a visit then. There was no continuous central heating, but the room stove was lit on occasions in very cold weather. The flat irons and bricks, wrapped in newspapers, helped to keep the beds warm, under the homespun blankets, the quilts and comforters. They were real homes.

A typical home today—

Maybe the most wonderful convenience which has come through the years has been electricity. This enables us, with the flick of a switch, to have bright lights, to pump our water, to wash our clothes, to clean our homes, to milk our cows, to separate the milk, to open our cans, to dry our hair, to beat our cakes, to cook our meals and so many more labor saving devices can be ours.

There is usually central heating, beautiful built-in cupboards in the kitchen, hot and cold water, a bathroom, a refrigerator, sometimes a deep-freeze too, maybe a dishwasher and furniture in keeping in the other rooms of the house. The parlor is gone, and we now have a livingroom.

How do the people in the home compare?

As well as the parents and 4, 5, 6 or more children, there used to be the grandparents and maybe a maiden aunt. Now wonder they were able to weave, to hook, to quilt, to make butter, to make soap, to cure the hams, to raise the chickens to milk the cows, to help in the fields and the many other things which they did. There always seemed to be a "built-in" baby sitter.

Today the families are, on the average, smaller, the grandparents live by themselves and the maiden aunts are away doing their own professional work. The mother may be working part time or even full time, in which case there is a housekeeper or a baby sitter. There does not seem to be time any more, to visit for a few hours, let alone a few days.

How does transportation and communication compare ?

Our forefathers spent months on the ocean from the Old Country. Today it takes 4, 5 or 6 days by ship or about that many hours by jet. Our forefathers had to walk many miles when they first came here. Then they had oxen teams and later horses. We can remember the project it was when our parents went to town for supplies. It was a long day or it may have been overnight. There was a long list of provisions to

purchase, usually paid for out of Mother's egg and butter money.

Today the automobile has created a whole new way of life for us. It is no longer a luxury, it is essential. Everyone in the home, over 16 years, is a driver. Father depends on it for transportation to and from work or for farm business. The children are driven to and from school, if they do not go by bus, and Mother has many essential trips to make. Three times a day there is a great crush of traffic either coming or going and we expect good driving conditions in summer, winter, seedtime and harvest, come snow, rain, sleet or fog. We expect highways to be open and safe in winter as well as in summer so that we can be at work on time each morning, whether we have to travel 25 or more miles in order to do it. And what about our grocery shopping? There are thousands of items on the shelves of our supermarket; fancy packaged, frozen, cooked, baked, ready to serve foods. Fresh fruits and vegetables at all seasons. The displays are a sight to behold. They tell us that the preparation of meals used to take as many as 5 hours a day, whereas now it takes as little as 90 minutes.

There is also the communication explosion. We not only hear about, but we also *see* events happen the moment they take place, in almost all parts of the world, by means of Telstar and Early bird, away up in the heavens. We have seen the Astronauts and Cosmonauts blasted off into space and travelling through outer space time and again. We even expect to hear about landings on the moon in the near future. Transistor radios go along to school and elsewhere with the boys and girls.

There has been a great revolution in our educational system. There are still some one-room little Red Schoolhouses where all the grades from the Primer to Grade X are taught. The exams at the end of Grade VIII used to be called "Leaving School Exams", but many boys and girls left school before that. Indeed, it is sad to say, that there are some adults who, even today, cannot sign their name. The few who went beyond Grade X, had to leave home, board in town or city for as many years as it took to finish the course that they wished or could afford to take.

Today ?

Well, there are very few, if any, schools which teach ten grades. In some areas, the Junior grades go by bus to Consolidated Schools, where 1, 2, or 3 grades are taught by one teacher. Certainly, the Grades IX to XII inclusive are taken by bus to Regional High Schools in most provinces, where there is a teacher for every subject. Many more subjects are taught, including the new mathematics and physical education. It is said that Physical Education helps make up for the lack of walking exercise which parents had when they walked to school. Then there is music, art, home economics, drama, manual training, to name a few others.

OUR ORGANIZATION

When we became members, we were mainly concerned with, "We in our small corner". FWIC and ACWW, if we knew anything about them, seemed a very long way off. (Maybe they still do.) WE worked for our local school — hot lunches, water fountains, window shades, battle ship linoleum for the floor and such things. Then it was war work. We made quilts, all sorts of knitted articles, parcels for the boys overseas, but with our basic W.I. aims always to the fore. Since that time the physical plant of our Education does not need our little things — by and large they are provided by Government, and, supposedly, we are at peace.

We are people of these exciting, changing dangerous, challenging times. What are some of the challenges facing us? Have we more leisure time? What are we doing with it, or how are we preparing for it? Do we feel that we are not fulfilling our potential? How are we guiding our children ? What is the future of our Organization?

I do not profess to be able to answer those questions. However, I will leave a few thoughts with you, which may give you some food for thought.

It is a fact that IBM machines and Electronic Computers are displacing the human being. They navigate ships and planes, prepare weather reports, check income tax returns, diagnose human and machine ailments — a terrific change in the history of mankind. It is said that, if all the computers in the United States went out of order, the country would be practically paralyzed; plants would shut down, finances would be thrown into chaos, and most telephones would be dead. In making a reservation to travel home from Ottawa in April, the man at the Air Canada desk made some marks on a card, stepped over to a little machine, held the card in a slot for a moment, took it out and he knew whether there was a seat on the plane for me. How many people did that machine displace? How much more quickly was the answer known ? However, those machines are incapable of exercising independent judgment and have no sense of creativity nor imagination. Machines do not destroy the need for skill, but they change the character of the skill needed. Someone has to run the computers. They tell us that those with talent for the work will have to develop it from childhood and will have to be trained very intensively. The careers beckoning to our children today have increased a thousandfold. There is opportunity for the expression of every talent they possess. No matter what course they choose to follow they must use their brain and work. We, as parents, are challenged to try and encourage our children to continue as long as possible with their education. This can and must begin while they are still young Good conversation about worthwhile subjects, around the dinner table, can do much to open children's minds and make them receptive to education. A philosopher of Ancient Greece — Diogenes — said, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

In our Organization, with the shrinking of the world, and with such worthwhile projects being undertaken on the National and International fields, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn about people in lands all around the world, their needs and their customs and we will understand and appreciate more fully just what our women are doing for the betterment of mankind. Through letter friends, we can surely build more "Bridges of Understanding".

But do not think only of "Bridges of Understanding" with OTHER countries — in our own country we need more understanding and tolerance throughout our own communities, our provinces and our country. Let us build our Canadian bridges both long and strong, and if anyone can do this, then the W.I. can lead the way.

At any rate, there is no way of living unto ourselves alone. Each and every one of us is a link in a vital chain. whether it is our Organization, our Community, our Province in Canada or elsewhere. We cannot shirk the responsibility of keeping our "Link" bright and shining. Our inactivity could result in the collapse of the entire chain. So let us strengthen that chain, every link of it, so that there will not be one weak spot when we celebrate our 100th Birthday in 1967.

TOOLS OF LIVING

It is hard to believe that a poem
That has stirred the hearts of men,
Was once but twenty-six letters
Put together by someone's pen.
The great Leonardo da Vinci
Created like a saint,
But the lovely Mona Lisa
Was once little daub of paint.
The mightiest concerto —
Eight notes — from do to do.
From little bits of cast-off rags
A rug is born, you know.
God gives us the things to work with
And though what we do may be small
The greatest tragedy life can hold
Is doing nothing at all.

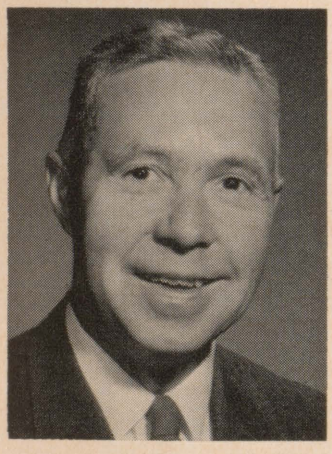
(Virginia Barnes Trask)

THE COLLEGE PAGE

4-H CLUBS VISIT CAMPUS

In July, over 400 members 4-H and Young Farmers' Clubs visited Macdonald College. The groups included 200 from Leeds and Grenville Counties in Ontario, and the Lennoxville 4-H Club.

On July 7th, Regional Teams judged classes of Ayrshires and Holsteins from the College herd. The winners will compete in the finals at Quebec City in September.



FIRST DEAN OF EDUCATION FACULTY

Professor C. Wayne Hall has been appointed first dean of the newly created Faculty of Education. The announcement was made on June 29th by Dr. H. Rocke Robertson, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University.

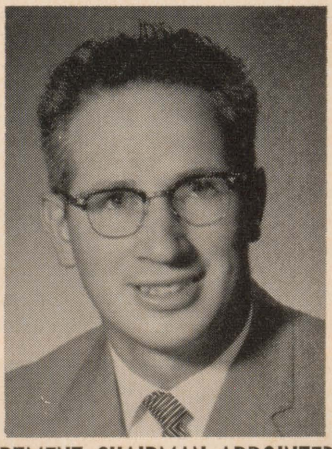
The new Faculty takes over the reconstituted Institute of Education on September 1st. This will not change the curriculum or degrees awarded by the University.

Professor Hall has been a professor of Education at McGill since 1949. Prior to 1949, he was supervisor of English for the Protestant Schools of Quebec from 1940 to 1949, and Regional Inspector from 1937 to 1940. Previously he was principal of Cookshire High School and St. Francis High School in Richmond.

ALL CANADIAN GRAND PRIX AT MACDONALD COLLEGE

This is expected to be the biggest Angus event in Quebec this year. It will be held in the Judging Area on September 18th.

Between 60 — 80 head of high quality cattle will be offered for sale. It is expected that cattle from the Maritimes, Ontario and from Western Canada will be offered for sale along with the Quebec entries.



DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Professor R. S. Broughton has been appointed chairman of the Department of Agricultural Engineering effective July 1. A graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Toronto and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Broughton has worked in the Experimental and Development Section of the John Deere Welland Works; and as a Hydraulic engineer with the Conservation Branch of the Ontario Civil Service before joining the Agricultural Engineering Department in December 1961.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Dr. Howard Steppler, chairman of the agronomy department, became past president at the recent annual meeting held in Vancouver, and Dr. Lewis Lloyd, chairman of the animal science department, became the National Director for the Province of Quebec.

During the past year, Dr. Steppler has been very active serving as president of this association.

As a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, Dr. Lloyd has served as secretary-treasurer, vice-president and president of the Macdonald College Branch.

U.B.C. PRESIDENT HONOURED

Leonard S. Klinck, President emeritus of the University of British Columbia, was honoured recently by the Agricultural Institute of Canda. The establishment of the Leonard S. Klinck Lectureship in recognition of his long an distinguished service to higher education was announced recently by Dr. H. . Steppler, the Institute's President.

After his childhood years on the family farm in Victoria Square, Ontario, Dr. Klinck pursued college studies in agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural

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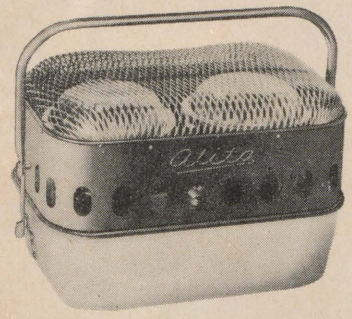

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Clay's Bargains #G62
Bewdley, Ontario

College, Guelph, and at Iowa State College. In 1905 he joined the Faculty of Macdonald College, McGill University, where he remained until 1914. At that time he joined the University of British Columbia as professor of Agronomy and first Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. In 1919, Dr. Klinck was appointed President which office he held for 25 years, until his retirement in 1944. Dr. Klinck was the first President of the Agricultural Institute of Canada when the organization was founded in 1920. He was made the Fellow of the Institute in 1922 and has remained an active member throughout his career. Now retired, Dr. Klinck lives in Vancouver.

QUEBEC WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONVENTION

The last part of June just wouldn't be the same unless the Q.W.I. held their convention here on the campus. For 51 years their annual convention has been at Macdonald College, and this year was no exception. On the second day of the convention, almost 250 members attended. The theme of the convention was "Team Spirit".

THE WEATHERMAN AND THE FARMER

The Extension staff at Macdonald College are working with the Weatherman of the Department of Transport at Dorval to provide a better weather forecast for farmers. The first "Agricultural Forecast" was issued on May 3rd. The format may be changed and improved upon, as necessary.

Agricultural workers at Macdonald College feel that a better forecast will assist the farmer in planning his work, especially during the haying and harvesting season.

A.R.D.A. SEMINAR

A one day seminar on the theme, "Private Forestry in Relation to A.R.D.A. Agreements" was held at Macdonald Colege in mid April. The conference was attented by delegates from A.R.D.A. and from private forestry and extension personnel in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec and Ontario.

ON THE FARM . . .

(continued)

Christmas and the County Fair. We were up at the crack of dawn. Dad was a bit slow getting ready and we would stand at the window watching our neighbors go by. "There go the Bacons, there go the Wards. We'll be the LAST ones there." I never wanted to leave and would strain my ears for the music of the merry-go-round fading in the distance.

Now our children are old enough. John gave Jackie a quarter before we left and soon after we arrived he was back asking for another. His father said, "But I gave you a quarter." "Yes," said Jackie, "but that was for ME." I hope he keeps on the same way and he'll be able to look after his aged parents — one of whom is aging fast.

An old man with his friend was staring at the marvel of the latest in milking machines. "I ain't seen nothing like it nowhere," he said, shaking his head, "never."

Wendy loves to feed the baby, but it's pretty frustrating for Buddy. If anything interests her she turns and out comes the bottle or spoon and she has to be reminded that that is the reason for his howls. I suspect that sometimes she takes a clinical interest in watching his face get red. Jackie is better, but his idea seems to be that the more Buddy eats, the sooner he'll be big enough to play with. I have to warn him that if he keeps on stuffing his little brother, the only use he'll be to play with will be as a football.

We've had the potato pickers — or they've had us. When you tour the Bowery in New York you see men sitting on the curb, holding down the sidewalks and up the doorways. Well, I think they emigrated. We got six as potato pickers. If you can imagine six Herbs gathered around the table. You know those big machines with the scoop that opens up like jaws and takes in a shovelful of earth or stones? I don't know what makes me think of it at mealtimes.

Anyhow I don't have the trouble with my menfolks getting to meals on time that my mother had. When she called dinner the men always found another job that took approximately half an hour. All our meals came out of the warming oven. Once she was telling a neighbor about this failing. Just then my father walked in and mother said, "Dinner's ready." "Oh," said father, "then I'll go out and feed the horses," and wondered why they laughed.

My men are the opposite, but I have a system. I set the table first. They take a look at the table, decide dinner is ready and then they can sit down and spend a half an hour quite happily doing nothing at all and never notice it.

Cheerio,
Eloise

P.S. By the way, we had a good potato crop. We CAN grow good potatoes here. Maybe I can have another fancy hairdo, ha, ha.